

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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Congress Looks Toward Ham License Fees

"We are trying to treat everyone fairly and equally across the board who is using spectrum or using the FCC for the processing of spectrum licenses. Amateur radio fits into that category. Their fee is \$35 generally; there are other fees for modifications. Their permit comes up every ten years. So we figured, and in fact this has been told to me by one of the amateurs, that \$3.50 a year is not a lot. But if we are going to exclude people from the fees based on whether they serve the public, which the amateur people are doing, I don't know of any licensee out there who doesn't serve the public and doesn't meet public interest obligations. So that's why they were included. Now they are trying to get themselves stripped from the bill." - **Senate Communications subcommittee staff member Tom Cohen**

On Oct. 5 the House passed a massive deficit-reduction bill including the introduction of license fees for the amateur service and just about every other radio service regulated by the FCC. At deadline, the Senate was working on its part of the legislation. ARRL representatives were trying to have Amateur Radio exempted from the cost-of-regulation fees, on the basis that amateurs do not use spectrum for commercial gain, that they provide valuable public services and that the fees are in excess of the costs incurred by the FCC in processing license applications.

We do not know at this point exactly how the FCC will conduct its fee-collection program if the legislation passes. Currently, many fees are collected by the FCC itself. Maybe a way can be found to keep the fee collection from becoming an added burden on the Volunteer Examining program.

The FCC will not be able to begin collecting fees immediately upon passage of the legislation; it will have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and review comments from the public. The fees are contributed to the Treasury and not retained by the FCC. The Commission must go through a

separate authorization process each fiscal year in the Congress. Some agencies, such as the *Securities and Exchange Commission*, are self-funding, as the fees and fines they collect are far in excess of the amounts needed to run the agency. According to Congressional staff members, the FCC's budget would exceed the amount collected.

At a recent legislative symposium, Senate staff member Tom Cohen offered some insight into fees, funding and Congress' philosophy when it comes to the FCC:

"The amount that is increased is relatively minimal, but our committee had to examine the issue of fees for the use of spectrum. That includes the [President's] auction [of spectrum] proposal. The members of the *Senate Commerce Committee* were not of a mind to impose fees for the use of spectrum, although they know that it could possibly raise billions of dollars. And, they were not of a mind to include auctions of the spectrum, even for the limited spectrum that the Administration requested. This is four to six megahertz that is probably going to go for air telephone service," Cohen said.

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"The members believe the auction proposal undermines the public interest standard of the *Communications Act* and the intent of many of the other things we would like to do in communications.

"The Commerce Committee also reported out the authorization legislation for the FCC. In the spending of fiscal year 1991 we have included an extra \$2 million for the Commission to rebuild its laboratories in Laurel, Maryland, which are in a very bad state. It slows down the process for people who want to have their products tested. People who have gone to that laboratory know that FCC testing takes a long time because the equipment there is not even close to state of the art.

[Editor's note: We hope that this extra money will enable the FCC to finally establish standards for interference immunity in consumer products such as TVs and stereos. According to a recent issue of *Federal Communications TechNews*, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology says it cannot enforce TVI standards because it doesn't have the facilities necessary to apply RF to the products and measure the results.]

"The legislation enables the FCC to order licensees of mobile [telephone and beeper] service to discontinue service to people who are found to be illegally using that mobile unit or who have unlawfully acquired the mobile unit. It comes from concern on Capitol Hill about drug transactions. The FCC must first obtain a lawful warrant that the unit is being used illegally, then it goes to the mobile radio provider. The provider is permitted to give reasonable notice to the subscriber.

"Also, we will continue in the direction of the amateur service, and permit outside entities to offer commercial radio operator examinations. The FCC has not updated the commercial operator tests, they don't give them often enough or at enough locations. We are trying to help the FCC as best we can under the budget constraints.

"Why should you be concerned with Congress? Normally you just go to the FCC for your license. The role of Congress has been to set communications policy. But in the past decade that has changed, largely due to the deregulatory drive, the evangelical fervor of the Reagan FCC. What we found was that people in the private sector more and more were treating Congress as the appeals court. Daily, people come into our office saying, 'The FCC is about to do --' and you can fill in any

one of a number of things --' and we therefore need you to step in.'

"If you've noticed, over the past decade we've included numerous provisions in legislation that say, 'FCC stop this,' or 'FCC change this.' ...That relationship will change somewhat because of the faith we have in [new FCC Chairman] Mr. Sikes being down there. But it will not change entirely. We are used to it. You are used to it. There's also a difference in philosophy that pervades this area. The Hill are Democrats and the FCC is Republican, so you can expect Congress to continue to be involved in overseeing individual FCC actions."

ANOTHER CODE-FREE HAM CLASS PROPOSED **\$Part 15 Public - \$Part 97 Combined Ham Class**

Don Stoner, W6TNS, of Mercer Island, WA, has requested the FCC create a new class of Amateur license to be called the **Digital Communicator**. He notes the Commission has begun to permit radio modems in the 902-928 MHz band under non-licensed \$Part 15 Rules.

Anyone wishing to do so may utilize digital communications in the 902-928 MHz Amateur band without having to obtain an Amateur license. \$Part 15 devices which aren't supposed to interfere with the Amateur Service allow 1 watt power level (Part 15.247b), while Amateurs may radiate up to 100 watts (\$Part 97.311g).

Stoner feels spread spectrum technology and the inherent reduction in data errors it provides, will become commonplace in the 902-928 MHz band for commercial digital communication in the next decade. Stoner says he knows of at least two companies that manufacture FCC Type Accepted 902-928 MHz commercial wireless radio LAN (local area network) transceivers using spread-spectrum emission.

O'Neil Communications of Princeton, N.J., manufactures the \$495 LAWN digital networker. LAWN, for *Local Area Wireless Network*, will link personal computers up to 100 feet apart. Founder Dr. Gerard O'Neil, a former physics professor at Princeton University, was responsible for launching Geostar in 1983. He has teamed up with Jim Healy, the former president of Millicom ...together they plan to make LAWN a consumer item ...even have gone as far as lining up a Madison Avenue advertising firm. The ARRL claims wireless LANs will cause amateur interference up to a block away.

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Stoner contends it is crucial to interest young people in pursuing a high-technology vocation. "There is no better way to stimulate an interest in things scientific than to introduce youngsters to the Amateur Service. Amateur radio can further educational interests in mathematics, languages, geography and space - in addition to communications. The Amateur Service is an extraordinary tool to mold young minds and provide useful direction in life." He maintains youngsters are interested in computers and its many variants.

"Why not allow the computer hobbyist into the Amateur fraternity by allowing them to use a presently unoccupied Amateur band without any form of testing whatsoever? The public is already permitted to use the 902-928 MHz band without an FCC license. Why not also permit them access to this same band as part of the Amateur Service?"

"These youngsters love to communicate with each other via modems and BBS's. If an inexpensive SS radio modem were available (like the TNC that TAPR developed) we could entice these young people to communicate via ham radio. We could bring tens-of-thousands of young people into the hobby. Many would not stop or be satisfied with 902 digital only but would go on to become "full fledged" hams. The Digital Communicator class could bring many young into our fraternity. We should not try to sell computer buffs on satellites, ham TV, DX'ing etc. Hook them with what they are interested in - not what they might be interested in."

THE STONER RULE MAKING PETITION

The proposal asks the Commission revise the existing §Part 97 Rules to permit Amateurs to grant other persons permission to use a subset of their call letters (i.e. W5TNS-1, W6TNS-2 or W6TNS-A, W6TNS-B and so on) - under well-defined and limited conditions.

The granting amateur must:

1. Hold a General or higher class Amateur license.
2. Not permit more than 26 subset call letters.
3. Receive no compensation for subset use.
4. Keep accurate records of call letter subset and;
5. Clearly acquaint the subset call letter user with the limits of the authorization.

The equipment used by the Grantee must:

1. Operate in the digital mode only in the 902-928 MHz band. No voice capability allowed.
2. Operate with spread spectrum emission with

standardized characteristics and specifications.

3. Utilize the AX.25 or similar protocol currently used on the ham bands and;
4. Be FCC Type Accepted.

"The benefits which would accrue from permitting this Amateur operation are enormous. School computer classes would band together (possibly as a subset of an Amateur instructor) and communicate via radio modems. Computer hobbyists everywhere would seek out Amateurs in the hope of being permitted to use their Amateur call.

Because of the higher baud rate, the 902-928 MHz band would attract many Amateurs who currently operate digital communications equipment on the lower VHF bands. These existing Amateurs will set the example for newcomers who are subset users of existing Amateur calls." Stoner even suggested that amateurs or ham clubs might want to establish spread-spectrum digipeter networks in the 902-928 MHz band - access would be limited to amateurs and those with authorized subset call signs.

"This intermingling is the most important aspect of the petition. In the process of finding a participating Amateur, and in the course of using their radio modems, grantee's will be exposed to the many facets of Amateur communications. While the ability to communicate digitally by radio will satisfy the needs of many -- large numbers of people will be motivated to earn higher levels of Amateur licenses. It will decrease the public's cost and dependence on the telephone for computer communications and will introduce their children to a new and exciting form of science and technology."

Stoner wonders just how long it will be before consumer giants like Nintendo decide to build 902 MHz remote devices for their games. Stoner feels that when 902-928 MHz commercial use gets excessive, amateurs could be moved off 902 in much the same fashion amateurs were moved off the old 11-meter ISM/ham band when it was needed for the Citizens Radio Service. "I believe if there are thousands of hams on 902 this will not happen. I don't like the term squatters rights ...but I would like to see the Amateur Service squatting on 902-928!!!!"

Don Stoner is Chief Engineer for *Digital Systems International, Inc.* of Redmond, WA. His Petition for Rule Making was filed on September 27, 1989.

COMMUNICATIONS DIGEST

□ Tandy has a new easy-to-use FAX board for PC compatibles with software using their DeskMate interface. The Tandy FaxMate System can display and print incoming FAXes as well as transmit them at 4,800 bps. Available in December; \$349.95 list. Radio Shack News Release 9/28/89

□ FCC has advised there are 18 different Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators in the Amateur Service but 76.4% of all license test elements administered during the Jan.-June 1989 period were handled by only two. ARRL-VEC accounted for 47.3%, W5YI-VEC 29.1%. (Next largest: C. Ala.-VEC 6.54%, De-Vry-VEC 3.88%, Sunnyvale-VEC 2.96%.) FCC Fact Sheet No. 204, 9/1/89

□ The FCC has denied Dennis Murphy reconsideration of their decision to only allow 17 meter (18.068-18.168 MHz) band access to all General, Advanced and Amateur Extra Class operator licensees. Murphy wanted access extended down to the Novice and Technician Class with a 200 watt power level. FCC said band was too small causing a potential for interference ...also that Novices and Technicians recently received enhanced privileges. ARRL filed an opposition to the petition for reconsideration. FCC News Bulletin No. DC-1481

□ FCC has issued a list of the countries that permit third party traffic. These countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (special event stations with call

sign prefix GB followed by a number other than 3), Uruguay, and Venezuela.

FCC Public Notice 9/7/89

□ A software security firm is offering a prize to any hacker that can break into its protected system. LeeMah Datacom Security Corp. of Hayward, Calif., will circulate a phone number of a computer that will be on-line Oct. 9-15. Any successful hacker who can penetrate the system wins a trip to either Tahiti or St. Moritz!

Communications Week - 9/25/89

□ AT&T is now in the electronic publishing business. A ban that kept AT&T from such activities was allowed to expire. That lets the carrier offer a wide assortment of information over the phone lines. American Express and AT&T plan a joint marketing venture named "Call Interactive."

Communications News, Sept. 1989

□ MCI is running a six month test where callers can use their VISA, credit card as an MCI Calling card. Charges appear as a single line summary on VISA bill with MCI sending a separate monthly call report.

Communications News - Sept. 1989

□ Recent Headline! Land mobile's future is bright, but is there enough spectrum? Panelists at Orlando's Land Mobile Expo East concluded that spectrum must be used more efficiently ...and more of it must be found. Cellular is already out of spectrum ...paging will be out of spectrum by the mid 1990's. There will be new service offerings everywhere ...but where will they go? Radio Communications Report, 9/25/89

□ Europe still evaluating standards for digital cordless telephones. The problem is there has been no agreement among European countries on a common frequency allocation. DECT (Digital European Cordless Telephone), CT2 (second generation

cordless telephones), and PCN (future Personal Communications Networks) are on the horizon. Swedish electronics giant, Ericsson, will demonstrate its first DECT-standard phone this fall using 900 MHz. spectrum. England will begin CT2 service later on this year using 864-868 MHz frequencies.

Radio Communications Report, 9/25/89

□ Interesting quote from House Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman Ed Markey (D-Mass.) on failure of Bush administration to place emphasis on HDTV (high definition television.) "...the Japanese and Europeans are in the eighth inning of a tightly fought ball game and we are still arguing over the best way to get to the ball park."

Broadcasting Magazine, 9/25/89

□ Washington lawyers are unhappy with procedures that give frequency coordinators control over the handling of regulatory fees paid by private land mobile radio applicants. They say they are prevented from charging clients a service charge for handling their application. RCR, 9/25/89

□ The newly seated FCC has made it clear that they will be zeroing in on indecent and obscenity material ...especially during daytime hours when children are likely to be listening. Several radio stations have already been cited. Penalties range to \$10,000 and/or two years in jail. Radio World, 9/27/89

□ The National Association of Broadcasters is opposing a current ANSI (American National Standards Institute) draft that would lower the RF exposure limit for FM broadcast station workers. The new exposure standard is proposed to be reduced to 200 mW/cm² if the equipment is located in a residential neighborhood. Level would remain at 1000 mW/cm² for "controlled" areas. The City of Seattle is considering a 100 mW/cm² exposure level. Radio World, 9/27/89

□ Bill Gates, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft Corp., the Bellevue, Washington, says the BASIC programming language was born out of the need to give non-technical people a simple way to interact with a computer. BASIC, Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code, celebrates its 25th birthday, this year. It was created at Dartmouth College in 1964, but it was Gates that improved it ...adding such features as PEEK and POKE to let people get at the resources of the machine.

Byte Magazine, Oct. 1989

□ Radioscan is a new monthly Spanish language ham magazine published in Miami, Florida. Editor in chief is J. A. Jorge, KC4LFM. Printed on high quality enamel paper, a recent issue carried full-page full-color ads from AEA, Kenwood and ICOM. Heath and ARRL both ran full page B/W ad. (175 Fountainebleau Blvd. #2K-5, Miami, FL 33172 \$19.95 yr.)

□ There are two types of optical storage technology. High capacity WORMs and erasable optical drives both use lasers to burn pits on a removable double-sided disk that can fit in your hand. WORM, "Write Once, Read Many" storage is best suitable for archival storage of data that doesn't change. Erasable optical disks can be rewritten although it takes two passes. One to restore the target area to its original form; a second pass writes new data. The big advantage of optical versus magnetic storage is the huge capacity available on a disk - typically 300-600 megabytes per side. Biggest disadvantage: access time is two to ten times slower than magnetic media. They are also more costly: WORMs average \$3500, Rewritable devices: \$5000.

Byte Magazine, Oct. 1989

□ Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. of Chicago is putting its Compton's Encyclopedia on a single compact-disc that

will include music, animation and narrative.

Marketing Week, 9/25/89

□ Andrew C. Barrett was sworn in on September 8th as a member of the Federal Communications Commission. He was nominated by President Bush on June 16. Barrett holds a law degree from DePaul University and since 1980 has served as a Commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission.

FCC News Bulletin, 9/7/89

□ The best power source for portable computers would be rechargeable lithium batteries which could offer twice the voltage at half the weight of current batteries. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won't allow lithium batteries larger than AA size. Reason: larger lithium batteries have the capacity to explode more violently and release the lithium metal into the environment.

Byte Magazine, Oct. 1989

□ The ITU, International Telecommunication Union, has announced its intention to hold a World Administrative Radio Conference in the first quarter of 1992 with authority to reallocate frequencies in the following bands: 3-30 MHz, 500 MHz-3 GHz and 12.7 GHz and above. The WARC will be held in Spain and is expected to last four weeks.

The CRRL Bulletin, 9/17/89

□ Ninety-seven representatives from 24 countries participated in the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Conference held in Orlando, Florida, on September 4-8. A wide range of topics was discussed including preparations for WARC '92. A special WARC budget of \$150,000 is to be raised by member-societies.

The CRRL Bulletin, 9/17/89

□ Oil companies have obtained waivers from the FCC to eliminate radio officers on many oil carrying tankers. An Exxon spokesman said the need for a trained radio officer

originated in the 1930s when someone skilled in Morse code was needed but "...that kind of radio telegraphy is now obsolete." Two unions, the American Radio Officer's Association and the Radio Officers Union, which represents about 600 sea-going officers are objecting on safety grounds. They contend every large merchant ship should have someone trained to repair radio equipment and handle communications leaving the Captain and crew to supervise other operations. Exxon says the absence of radio officers aboard sea-going vessels is "...just a false issue raised by certain unions trying to capitalize on the unfortunate Alaskan oil spill." Exxon says it has ensured safe communications on its tankers by installing duplicate radio systems and training various crew members to operate them.

Associated Press, 9/20/89

□ Thomas M. Middleton, WB4CKY, a volunteer Miami ham operator, was the only link between the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Florida and Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other islands that lost electricity and telephone service as Hurricane Hugo thundered through the Caribbean. "To an untrained ear, only noise is heard on 14.325 megahertz, the 20-meter-band frequency dedicated to emergency broadcasts. But Middleton, who earned his radio license in 1938, can distinguish voices describing near total devastation ...99 percent homeless ...total destruction ...four bodies in the street. 'It's strange, but you don't hear any sense of crisis in the voices, even in the most desperate reports,' he said. 'It's a lot like the last words from those pilots who crashed in Sioux City, Iowa, in July. Everyone's very calm, almost matter of fact.' The National Hurricane Center is part of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Washington Post, 9/19/89

□ Last year the FCC levied a whopping \$600,000 fine against Intercambio, Inc. for transmitting obscene "dial-a-porn" material over the interstate telephone network. It also asked Intercambio to produce tapes of its messages as well as other financial information about the corporation. The fine is in response to a complaint from a parent who said their son placed over 280 calls in 2½-months to various dial-a-porn providers including Intercambio. The complainant's son is now seeing a psychiatrist on a weekly basis. Intercambio denied any violation of the obscenity statutes. The Commission then called and recorded Intercambio's messages over 100 times - mostly during the day when children could be expected to be able to call. The FCC found no restrictions in place to prevent minors from accessing Intercambio's messages which they judged to be obscene. Intercambio now says their income has declined and they can't pay the fine. The FCC maintains the fine is reasonable based on the facts of the case and has given them 30 days to pay.

FCC Report & Order, Released: 9/18/89

□ Movie actor Marlon Brando, alias Martin Brandeaux, in Tetiaroa, located just north of Tahiti in French Polynesia holds ham call FO8GJ. Brando purchased the island from Dr. W. J. Williams' stepdaughter in 1966. Apparently Brando can be reached c/o the Radio Club of Tahiti, BP 5006 Pirae, Tahiti, French Polynesia.

"Bigger Secrets" Book/Wm. Poundstone.

□ New technology could lead to the elimination of TV set-top converter boxes. Consumers would simply plug a "Starport" on-premises addressable control module into their cable-ready VCR or television. Cost is around \$100 per module which is mounted on the outside of customer's homes rather than in set-top converter boxes. The initial Star-

port module has four addressable ports, including one for pay-per-view ...and a disconnect feature to control the signals into the home as consumer's choose. At least one large cable operator plans to install the modules on the side of every home passed. This will give consumers with cable-ready sets the ability to order pay-per-view programming whether or not they are cable subscribers. Side advantage is the module may be serviced when the viewer is not at home. Starport technology was developed by the Jerrold Division of General Instrument Corp. Multichannel News, 9/18/89

□ Camcorders are quickly becoming a widely own consumer item. The Electronics Industry Association says some 6 million have been sold in the last three years alone ...another 2.5 million will be sold this year. That's a lot of amateurs shooting videos! Many are finding their way to local and national TV news broadcasts. News directors say amateurs are starting to beat the professionals in capturing newsworthy events on video tape. And as more people get the knack of shooting good video, local TV stations and the national networks are not only airing amateur footage of breaking news, they're encouraging it. CNN solicits spot news for its ongoing Newshound promotion and offer amateur videographers an information sheet that tells them what the news service is interested in ...and how to submit footage.

Electronic Media, 9/18/89

□ The world's first high definition television broadcasting began in Japan on June 3, 1989. There are about 90 public HDTV viewing spots throughout Japan ...located in department stores, exhibition halls, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corp.) stations and post offices. A High Definition Gallery System (HDGS) has also been developed which allows museum visitors to view works of art (stored digitally on CD-

ROM-type optical disks) with greatly improved resolution. A 3-D image HDTV recording system uses two cameras ...special glasses are still needed.

"Look Japan" Magazine, Sept. 1989

□ Radio talk show "Shock Jocks" had better clean up their act. Speaking at the NAB's '89 conference in New Orleans, new FCC Chairman Al Sikes made it clear that he stands behind the war on broadcast smut. "Ask yourself whether Thomas Jefferson or James Madison or others had such material in mind when the First Amendment was being crafted." He urged broadcasters to come up with their own voluntary programming guidelines. Sikes said he would work with them, and if necessary, the Justice Department to develop sound standards. The FCC has launched indecency investigations against AM/FM radio stations in Chicago, San Jose, CA, and Indianapolis.

Electronic Media, 9/18/89

□ The FCC has certified NYNEX Corporation's Wireless LAN as a license-free Part 15 device. The new wireless local-area-network transceiver allows personal computers to be linked together via the radio spectrum. The battery-operated spread-spectrum device legally transmits in the 902-928 MHz ham band at 100 mW or 1W - a power level that is exempt from licensing under the new Part 15 rules. (Wonder if the device has the potential to interfere with on-going ham operations - also see Don Stoner's/W6TNS Petition for Rulemaking covered elsewhere in this issue.)

Fed.Comm.TechNews, Sept. 1989.

□ Ralph Haller, N4RH, Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau stands at the forefront of perhaps the greatest period of change in the history of private land mobile communications. The challenge for Haller and others like him is to keep pace and somehow do it with little money.

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Haller said a major challenge in the coming fiscal year will be the implementation of additional automation in Gettysburg. He said his goal is to automate the entire licensing process from the time applications are electronically received to the issuing of licenses. (Interview was with a land mobile publication and it is not clear if this automation will extend to the amateur service.) The bureau has a full slate of policy items ...including writing the 220-MHz narrowband service rules.

RCR, 9/11/89

□ Three California CBers have forfeited their illegal equipment to the U.S. Government. Officials executing a search warrant, seized \$3,000 worth of high power linears and "funny frequency" CB radios from the homes of John Robinson (Sacramento), Andrew/Mary Lou Calloway (E. Palo Alto) and Ted Green of Oakland. After receiving many complaints of TV interference, FCC engineers from the San Francisco Office - using specialized direction finding equipment - traced the problem to three residences. All three refused to allow FCC personnel into their homes although FCC Rules specifically require all CB radio stations be made available for inspection. Warning letters were ignored, fines went unpaid ...neighborhood interference increased. It all came to an end in August when U.S. Marshalls and investigators raided the residences. A total of \$3,200 in fines have now been assessed and the U.S. Attorney has been requested to pursue forced collection.

FCC Public Notice, 9/7/89

□ New Jersey's law prohibiting mobile use of radio receivers capable of tuning in police and fire transmissions could be repealed! Law enforcement, firefighters and rescue squad members are exempt from the scanner law, regular citizens ...including ham operators, news reporters and photographers, as well as

other radio hobbyists who listen to scanners are not. Listeners face misdemeanor charges if caught with a scanner in their vehicle. Two bills have now been introduced into the New Jersey state legislature in Trenton seeking to repeal the law in the current legislative session. An alternative bill, which looks toward exempting only licensed ham operators, is not being well received at all by other scanner users.

East Coast News Service & ANARC

□ Radio equipment used by a Brooklyn NY pirate broadcast station has been seized by the U.S. Government. The seizure was the first case to make use of Federal civil forfeiture provisions to shut down an unlicensed radio station. The clandestine FM station used the callsign WHOT and operated weekends on a frequency of 91.5 MHz on the FM dial between 12 midnight and 7 a.m. FCC engineers located the station using mobile DF equipment. Unlicensed radio station operation carries a penalty of up to a \$100,000 fine and/or one year in prison.

FCC Public Notice, 9/15/89

□ Try listening to an amateur beacon station if you want to know when the ten meter ham band is open. There are beacon stations located in every continent. Nearly all - and there are dozens of them - operate between 28.200 and 28.300 MHz. Most identify themselves by their call sign, keyed in slow Morse. Some include the suffix /B or /BCN at the end of their call. Beacon output power may be anything from one or two watts upwards, generally to an omnidirectional antenna, although a few use directional antennas. A 20-meter beacon chain sponsored by the Northern California DX Foundation rotates every minute among eight worldwide locations on 14.100 MHz (20 meters.) 21.150 is reserved for a similar chain of beacons to be established in the 15m band.

Practical Wireless, England, UK

□ Donnie Ray Johnson, owner of Red Monkey Communications in Fresno, CA, apparently didn't get the message the first time. Four years ago Johnson was found guilty of marketing illegal CB linear amplifiers, fined \$5,000 and placed on 2 years probation. On August 14, 1989, U.S. Marshalls and engineers from the FCC's San Francisco office found Johnson back in the illegal CB equipment business. The U.S. Attorney will prosecute again ...a second conviction carries a much stronger message ...a maximum fine of \$100,000 and/or two years imprisonment.

FCC Public Notice, 9/7/89

□ The Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN), a new technology which allows simultaneous multiplexed transmission of voice, data, fax and video information over a single line will become widespread in the 1990's. You'll be able to FAX documents while speaking to the recipient.

The Futurist, Oct. 1989

□ The FCC will be randomly checking computers for RF radiation compliance at the upcoming COMDEX Computer Show to be held in Las Vegas, Nov. 13-17. Companies offering non-standard computing devices are subject to penalties of up to \$2,000 per day. The FCC said proper compliance will not only minimize interference to authorized services but may also protect computers from interference generated by nearby radio transmitters.

FCC News Release, 9/15/89

□ Jim Kelly, KK3K, president of the Lambda Amateur Radio (P.O. Box 24810, Philadelphia, PA 19130) says their organization has grown by 60%. Lambda's membership is made up of gay and lesbian ham radio operators. LARC's first "Golden Gate Chapter" was formed in the San Francisco area, followed by the Washington, DC "Potomac Chapter." Other chapters are being formed in

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other cities. They have a weekly on-the-air meeting and a monthly Club newsletter, "The Lambda Net News." The club was formed in June 1975 by a gay U.S. ham who advertised in a national publication seeking to meet other gays and lesbians with an interest in ham radio. According to their by-laws, one of Lambda's purposes is to conduct an outreach program to reach gay and lesbian amateur radio operators and to recruit interested gays and lesbians into the Amateur Radio Service.

Lambda Press Release, Condensed

☐ An ordinance intended to allow broadcast radio stations without transmitting towers in certain areas drew the attention of ham operators in Sedona, Arizona. It was pointed out that the phrase "radio station" was too broad and might be applied to amateur stations. The City Attorney agreed that federal regulations for amateur radio operations supercede city ordinances but that the ordinance was governing land use. Ham operators maintained that this does not happen in practice. Unless hams were specifically exempted, they maintained, the ordinance would prohibit non-commercial towers from all but specified industrial areas. The City Council finally agreed to define "radio station" as a commercial broadcast radio station and amateur radio stations were specifically exempted from the provisions of the ordinance.

Red Rock News, Sedona, AZ. 9/20/89

☐ The first meeting of the Canadian Preparatory Committee for the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference was held in Ottawa on October 3rd. "We should certainly expect all HF Amateur bands to be subject to scrutiny at WARC '92," said CARF, the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation. The Canadian Department of Communications made the following observation regarding the need for Morse code on the lower HF bands in their November 1985 Discussion Paper on

a Possible Restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service: "It is suggested that a Morse code test, especially for high-frequency operation (below 30 MHz) is irrelevant now that there are devices capable of transmitting and receiving Morse code automatically, and that the Morse code requirements should be waived for candidates that will equip their stations with such devices. However, Morse code proficiency is required by Canada's international obligations as a member of the ITU. We must therefore adhere to ITU Radio Regulation No. 2735." [One wonders what action the ITU nations will take on the Morse requirement at the 1992 WARC.]

CARF Bulletin 10/1 and DOC comment.

☐ Hurricane Hugo virtually eradicated all communications and broadcast media in the U. S. Virgin Islands. Their two TV stations were destroyed, declared bankrupt and will not rebuild. Estimates are that cable TV will not be restored for 10 months at best. Many towers were toppled and only one of 18 radio stations was able to make it back on the air reasonably soon after the hurricane hit. Phone lines were damaged and two-way radios supplied by Caribbean-based engineer Gordon Ackley were the backbone of communications. [Ackley is believed to be amateur operator, David G. Ackley, W4UWH.]

Broadcasting Magazine.

☐ The League is raising the prices of its license preparation materials. Their new Technician Class License Manual goes from \$5 to \$6. The "Tune in the World with Ham Radio" Novice kit (with two code-teaching tapes) is now \$19. It was \$15 previously. (\$14 for just the textbook - up from \$12.). Both publications address the new Novice and Technician question pools going into effect on November 1. The 288-page ARRL FCC Rule Book now is \$9 instead of \$5.

ARRL News Release, 9/29/89

☐ Looking for a good DX oriented program for your next ham club meeting? The Northern California DX Foundation, Inc. has a number of excellent slide shows and VHS video tapes available for loan to groups wishing to show them at meetings. Your cost is postage in both directions - about \$5.00. A list of available programs can be had from: Josephine Clarke WB6ZUC, 207 Evergreen Drive, Kentfield, CA 94904. Include the name of your club.. The NCDXF library contains thirty different slide shows and twenty-three videos.

☐ Due to restrictive Japanese trade practices involving the cellular telephone industry, the United States' Trade Representative's Office threatened to dramatically increase the import tariff on specified electronic categories ...including UHF amateur radio transceivers. Current duty is 6%. After setting the new rate at 100%, the USTR dropped the planned tariff hike when Japan agreed to open up its cellular markets to the rest of the world. Had the law gone into effect, it would have doubled retail prices! Italy, however, has made a decision to no longer accept any imported electrical and electronic commodities produced in Japan. A total ban is now indefinitely in effect in that country.

Federal Express Bulletin, Sept. 1989

☐ Hi-Tech Smoky Report! There are 24-hour robot radar units operating in Connecticut that sense and automatically photograph the license plates of speeding vehicles. The offender then gets a summons in the mail. The State Police roadside camera locations are offered for a self-addressed stamped envelope to: P.O. Box 98, Brasstown, NC 28902. Monitoring Times, Oct. 1989.

☐ Conducting Novice Classes or exams? We have a kit that contains Novice testing instructions, prepared tests, Form 610's and the new 372 question pool. Cost: \$3.95 to W5YI.

W5YI REPORT

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

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October 15, 1989

AUGUST AMATEUR LICENSING STATS

| August | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| New | | | | |
| Amateurs | 1377 | 918 | 1386 | 1488 |
| Upgrading: | | | | |
| Novices | 707 | 1160 | 1260 | 1190 |
| Technicians | 216 | 303 | 389 | 391 |
| Generals | 229 | 263 | 304 | 272 |
| Advanced | 176 | 227 | 250 | 182 |
| Total: | 1328 | 1953 | 2203 | 2035 |
| Renewals: | | | | |
| Total Renew: | 1964 | 2521 | 3220 | *214 |
| Novices | 101 | 137 | 283 | *31 |
| Purged:(*) | | | | |
| Total Drop: | 1829 | 2020 | 1450 | 1835 |
| Novices | 1297 | 1448 | 738 | 854 |
| Census: | | | | |
| Indiv. Oper. | 421077 | 429678 | 436705 | 463172 |
| Change/Year | +9497 | +8601 | +7027 | +26467 |

Indiv. Operators by Class:

| Extra | Advan. | General | Tech. | Novice | Total: |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| August 1986: | | | | | |
| 40455 | 98294 | 116944 | 86025 | 79359 | 421077 |
| 9.5% | 23.5% | 27.9% | 20.3% | 18.9% | 100% |
| August 1987 | | | | | |
| 42914 | 98114 | 114737 | 90675 | 83238 | 429678 |
| 10.0% | 22.8% | 26.7% | 21.1% | 19.4% | 100% |
| August 1988: | | | | | |
| 45909 | 98282 | 113068 | 98944 | 80502 | 436705 |
| 10.5% | 22.5% | 25.9% | 22.7% | 18.4% | 100.0% |
| August 1989: | | | | | |
| 49275 | 101311 | 116289 | 111708 | 84589 | 463172 |
| 10.6% | 21.9% | 25.1% | 24.1% | 18.3% | 100.0% |
| Club/ | | | | | |
| RACES & | (1986) | (1987) | (1988) | (1989) | |
| Military | 2671 | 2443 | 2319 | 2472 | |
| Total Active | 423748 | 432121 | 439024 | 465644 | |
| % Increase | +2.3% | +2.0% | +1.6% | *+6.1% | |

NOTE: Again we remind you that the U.S. amateur service is not really expanding at a 6.1% rate. Due to the implementation of the 10-year term license in 1984, there were 25,613 less renewals this year. (28,734 during the first eight calendar months of 1988, only 3,121 for the comparable period this year.) Assuming the same drop-out rate, if you adjust for this difference, the number of U.S. amateurs would be up only 854 - a gain of less than two-tenths of one percent! The rate of growth in the U.S. Amateur Radio Service continues to decline.

Source: FCC Licensing Facility, Gettysburg, PA

INDIAN TRIBAL LANDS: NEXT DXCC COUNTRY?

A group of Northwest amateurs, including N7ZZ, W7EJ, W7ZR, K7SS, K7RA, KE7V, N0AX and others will operate from the **Puyallup Tribe of Indians** land (PTI) on the weekend on October 13 using their individual calls /PTI. The Puyallup Tribe are an independent nation of native American people. Their lands border on and include part of the City of Tacoma, Washington. The amateur group is applying for separate country status under DXCC Rule 1, Government.

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians land qualifies under the current definition of sovereignty, and supporting arguments for the criteria have been discussed with the DXAC, ARRL officials ...and others. "This one stands a good chance of qualifying," according to Stu Hoar, N7ZZ. "The tribal lands meets each of the requirements. The ARRL has been sent a full packet with the arguments and documentation on issues like treaties with separate international governments."

Operation will take place on all bands on recognized DXpedition frequencies. Special commemorative QSLs will be handled via SASE to the callbook address of each operator. No American Indian reservation has even been classified as a DXCC country prior to this application.

World's Largest Gathering of Ham Operators... HAM FAIR '89 - TOKYO, JAPAN

HAM FAIR is recognized as the largest amateur radio event in the world. Some 58,000 attendees gathered at the New Hall of the International Trade Center in Harumi, Tokyo on August 25-27 to hear such speakers as **Dick Baldwin, W1RU**, President of the IARU, and **Cheng Ping/ BZ1CP - Wang Xun, BZ1WX** of the CRSA, China Radio Sport Association. The opening ceremony began with a welcome address by **Shozo Hara, JA1AN**, President of the Japan Amateur Radio League. The event is jointly sponsored by the JARL and the JAIA, the Japan Amateur Radio Industries Association.

It was announced that a second Japanese Amateur satellite, JAS-1b, will be launched in February. Amateur station **8J1HAM** operated continuously during the Ham Fair. On August 28-30, an IARU Region 3 meeting was held to discuss the issues confronting Amateur Radio in the Asia-Pacific Region ...especially the possible frequency assignment tables that might be considered at WARC '92.

• **The FCC is apparently not treating the code-free petitions** that were given RM numbers as a group. They are independent RMs, and comments must be filed on each one. Since some of the comments coming in address them as a group (i.e. "RM-6984 - 6995") the FCC dockets staff are having to laboriously copy the materials to place them in each of the docket files.

One was from **William Newkirk/WB9IVR** of the Space Coast Amateur Technical Group regarding RM-6986. SCATG asked for an extension to file comments on that petition of at least 90 days. "...to allow the Amateur Radio media time to distribute information to the Amateur Radio public." They also asked that RM-6986 be combined with the other petitions into one rule making. **Pamela C. Follansbee/WM7R** of Pasco WA filed a Declaration of Opposition to RM-6988 which looks toward de-emphasizing Morse code.

Clement Bourgeois Jr./N5ADK of Erath LA requested that RM-6991 be explored in which a single test is given combining code and the written test. He prefers that code be a matter of recognition with a 90 or 95% accuracy and incorporated into the written test with a message in written dots and dashes.

• **The UK is in the process of adopting a Novice ham license.** There will be no age limit but applicants would have to attend a basic amateur radio training course and pass multiple-choice theory and 5-wpm Morse code tests. Training will be given by instructors accredited by the RSGB, *Radio Society of Great Britain*. First thinking is British Novices will be authorized 5 watts input power using Morse and data on small sections of most HF bands - voice on 1950-2000 kHz, 28.3-28.5 MHz, 51.250-51.750 MHz, 433-435 MHz, 1240-1325 MHz and 10.0-10.5 GHz. No privileges on 40, 20 or 2M.

FCC: DRUGS AND RADIO DON'T MIX

The White House's latest campaign against drugs is prompting Federal agencies to consider how they can contribute to stopping this national problem. The first independent regulatory agency to publicly announce a new anti-drug policy is the FCC -- and the policy may affect Amateur Radio directly! By a 5-0 vote, the FCC Commissioners said they would join the Bush administrations' war on drug abuse and voted to crack down on drugs.

A Sept. 29, 1989 *Public Notice* on FCC drug policy

states: "The Commission has no evidence indicating that the incidence of drug trafficking on the part of FCC licensees, or employees of licensees, exceeds that for American society generally. The Commission nevertheless regards drug trafficking as a matter of the gravest concern and intends to apply policies that reinforce both private and Government efforts to eradicate drug trafficking.

"Accordingly, absent extenuating or mitigating circumstances, the Commission intends promptly to take all appropriate steps, including initiation of license revocation proceedings, where information comes to our attention that FCC licensees or their principals have been convicted of drug trafficking." The FCC noted that its statement is intended to apply to licensees in all FCC services.

Although the press release did not describe exactly how the information might come to the FCC's attention, we learned that a 1988 law allows denial of federal benefits to persons convicted of drug offenses. The FCC has decided that such benefits include the award of a radio license.

Apparently, the *General Services Administration* will produce a list of persons to be denied benefits under this law. The list will be distributed to federal agencies. We understand that the FCC's legal department is considering how to use the list during processing of license applications. The list would be consulted by license examiners, and if the applicant's name appears on it, the application will be denied. This would apply to services including amateur, broadcast, common carrier and others. A part of this program that FCC is looking at would require that persons convicted of drug offenses file special statements with the FCC.

The FCC recently ordered a South Carolina AM broadcast station to show cause why its license should not be revoked because of cocaine trafficking by the owner; Gregory Knop, licensee of WKSP-AM. The FCC had renewed his license while he was serving a five prison term but said later that the renewal was a mistake. Knop has also applied for FCC approval to build a new FM station.

The agency has urged broadcasters to make the "...maximum possible effort" to wipe out drug abuse. "Drugs have had an extraordinary corrosive effect on the fabric of our nation," said FCC Chairman Sikes. "I think it's important to make a statement."